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Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates

Letter from Special Assistant to the Secretary of State
to the DCI dated 13 October 1950

COMMENTS

I. The OIR Program Planning Guide

1. The purposes and objectives of the OIR Program Planning Guide are soundly conceived and well presented. The application of its principles to OIR intelligence production will increase the Department's support of the national intelligence effort, and will assist CIA in making use of the Department's intelligence facilities and output. The guide has far reaching utility in providing a basis upon which CIA and State can mutually resolve specific problems of substance, and adjust the Department's intelligence production program to be in phase with the national intelligence program.

2. The principle of production planning as a means of achieving an integrated governmental intelligence effort was recommended by OIR to CARS on 17 October 1949 in the form of a proposed revision to NSC 5412, a copy of which is attached hereto under Tab A. Even though no affirmative action was taken on this recommendation, OIR has produced four intelligence production plans; two of which are currently under consideration by the IAC agencies (Psychological Intelligence and International Communism), one of which is in process of dissemination to both IAC and non-IAC agencies concerned (Economic Intelligence), and one of which is under review and amendment within OIR prior to its referral to the IAC agencies for review and comment (Far East Intelligence Production Plan).

3. Action leading toward the development of a comprehensive national intelligence production program is proceeding within OIR, and will encompass the above mentioned production plans as integral parts. This action will be fully coordinated at the production level of the IAC agencies prior to submission for DCI approval and IAC consideration.

II. Substantive Intelligence Questions for Referral to the IAC

1. In reference to the second (unnumbered) paragraph of subject letter, representatives of GIN, ODAP, and Mr. Armstrong's office have reached informal agreement in principle subject to approval of the following points:

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a. That a short list of intelligence questions relative to the production of national intelligence should be put before the IAC at an early date as an interim production planning measure.

b. That the formulation of these questions should be accomplished under the initiative and leadership of ORE in collaboration with the chiefs of production offices within the IAC agencies to arrive at a coordinated list for consideration of the IAC.

c. That, subsequent to action of the IAC in reviewing the list, ORE will break down the questions into projects and studies and negotiate allocations of production with the IAC agencies, including the setting of priorities, schedules and deadlines for draft contributions to national intelligence estimates.

d. That the action described in paragraphs 1b and c above will be continuing processes and will lead ultimately into coordinated intelligence production planning on an inter-agency basis.

2. The procedure outlined above, if approved, would have the effect of bringing the IAC agencies and the IAC into the picture at the earliest stage of the planning process. It would further provide the IAC with appropriately coordinated action in which each member's production chief had participated. It would retain for CIA the initiative and leadership within the intelligence community which must be exercised to maintain IAC at the apex of the governmental intelligence structure. It would conform with and further the objectives implicit in the second paragraph of the subject letter.

3. ORE is prepared to meet with OIR and the other IAC production staff on 23 October 1950 to collaborate on an initial formulation of substantive intelligence questions for IAC consideration on 3 November 1950.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the DCI approve in principle and direct the implementation of the intelligence production planning concept contained in Tab A attached hereto, and the procedures for putting it into effect as set forth in Section II, paragraphs 1a through d, above.

2. That the DCI include discussion of the above-mentioned concept and procedure on the agenda of the IAC meeting this date.

3. That the reply to subject letter be limited to discussion of the OIR Program Planning Guide substantially similar to the comment contained in Section I, paragraph 1, above.

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cc:
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THEODORE BARRETT

Attachment - Tab A

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